

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /063 W
-----071679 111627Z /75

O R 111535Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6816
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1125

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB
SUBJECT: STOBBS REMARKS ON NOMINATING CANDIDATES FOR EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT

REF: (A) USBERLIN 1025, (B) USBERLIN 1110, (C) USBERLIN 1115,
(D) BONN 8587, (E) BECKER/WHITLOCK TELECONS MAY 11

SUMMARY: WE HAVE ALREADY HAD INFORMAL EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS
WITH SENAT AND POLITICAL OFFICIALS ON NATURE OF STOBBE REMARKS,
AND HAVE GAINED RATHER DIFFERENT IMPRESSION OF WHAT THEY MEAN,
AND WHAT THEY PORTEND FOR THE EC ELECTIONS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE
THERE IS SUFFICIENT CLARITY ABOUT THE FACTS TO WARRANT APPROACH
TO STOBBE BY SENIOR ALLIED OFFICIALS. WE RECOMMEND LOW KEY,
LOW LEVEL, INFORMAL EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS TO GET CLEARER
PICTURE BEFORE CONSIDERING RAISING MATTER WITH GOVERNING MAYOR.
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END SUMMARY

1. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF D, WE HAD DISCUSSED WITH CDU AND SPD
OFFICIALS AS WELL AS HEAD OF CHANCELLERY HEIMANN
STOBBE PROPOSAL THAT BERLIN PARTIES DESIGNATE THEIR PRE-
FERRED CANDIDATES FOR SEATS IN THE EC PARLIAMENT PRIOR
TO BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTIONS SCHEDULED

FOR MARCH 18, 1979. REASONS WHY STOBBE MADE PROPOSAL,
AND GENERAL LACK OF REACTION IN BERLIN TO IT REPORTED
REFS B AND C.

2. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BERLIN
SPD AND CDU AS WELL AS BY SENAT CHANCELLERY HEAD HEIMANN
THAT CANDIDATES FOR THE EC PARLIAMENT NEED NOT BE MEM-
BERS OF THE BERLIN HOUSE AND IN FACT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD
WILL NOT BE MEMBERS OF THE BERLIN HOUSE. (CONTRARY TO
SUGGESTION IN PARA 2 REF D) ONE NAME MENTIONED BY THE
SPD FOR EXAMPLE, IS HELLMUT SIEGLERSCHMIDT PRESENTLY A
MEMBER OF THE FRG BUNDESTAG FROM BERLIN AND SPD REPRE-
SENTATIVE IN STRASBOURG.

3. BASED ON WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY, NAMES
OF EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES PREFERRED BY BERLIN
POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD NOT APPEAR ON MARCH 1979 BALLOTS
NOR WOULD THERE BE ANY INDICATION THAT VOTE FOR ONE
PARTY OR ANOTHER WOULD REPRESENT VOTE FOR INDIVIDUAL EC
PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE. IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY
EVERYONE CONCERNED WITH THE QUESTION, THAT BERLIN'S EC
REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE SELECTED BY THE BERLIN HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES USING THE D'HONDT PROPORTIONAL METHOD
AS A GUIDE, JUST AS BUNDESTAG MEMBERS ARE. THIS MEANS
THAT LARGEST BERLIN CAUCUS IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WILL SELECT TWO OF ITS CANDIDATES FOR THE EC PARLIAMENT
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WHILE THE SECOND LARGEST WILL BE ENTITLED TO ONE.
(COMMENT: THIS IS, OF COURSE, SUBJECT TO CHANGE DE-
PENDING ON WHETHER THE MUCH SMALLER FDP CAN BRING SUFFI-
CIENT PRESSURE ON ITS SENIOR COALITION PARTNER TO FORCE
THROUGH AN AGREEMENT THAT EACH OF THE THREE PARTIES IN
THE HOUSE BE REPRESENTED IN THE EC PARLIAMENT.)

4. COMMENT: IN SUM, AS WE AND MOST OTHERS UNDERSTAND
STOBBE'S PROPOSAL, WHETHER OR NOT PARTIES NAME THEIR
PREFERRED CANDIDATES PRIOR TO THE MARCH, 1979 HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION, THE ACTUAL SELECTION PROCESS
OF THE CANDIDATES BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEN THE
BERLIN HOUSE WILL REMAIN THE SAME.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 1125

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5. AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS TO US THAT THERE AREN'T
ENOUGH FARD FACTS KNOWN ABOUT THE SUBJECT (OR AT LEAST
THEY HAVE BECOME BLURRED AND CONFUSED ALONG THE LINE) TO
WARRANT HAVING THE ALLIES RAISE IT WITH GOVERNING MAYOR
AT THE MINISTER OR COMMANDANT LEVEL AS THE FRENCH
SUGGEST, NOR DO WE SUPPORT RAISING THE ISSUE WITH THE
FRG IN BONN WHERE EVEN LESS IS KNOWN ABOUT WHAT STOBBE
AND/OR THE SENAT HAVE IN MIND THAN HERE. WE THINK IT
WOULD BE FAR MORE APPROPRIATE, AS THE U.S. BONN
GROUP REPRESENTATIVE HAS SUGGESTED, FOR BERLIN MISSIONS
TO PURSUE SUBJECT AT LOWER LEVEL, PERHAPS IN CONJUNCTION
WITH DISCUSSIONS OF FORMALITIES OF EC ELECTION PROCEDURES
WHICH ALLIED CHAIRMAN SLO RAISED IN COURSE OF NORMAL
WORKING CONSULTATIONS WITH SENAT (PARA 3 REFTEL C). NO
ONE IN BERLIN (EXCEPT THE FRENCH) SEEM TERIBLY WORKED
UP ABOUT THIS ISSUE AND TO RAISE IT WITH THE GOVERNING
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MAYOR AT THIS TIME, ABSENT SUFFICIENT FACTS, COULD IN
OUR OPINION UNNECESSARILY STIR UP THE SITUATION. IF,
AT SOME LATER POINT, AS A RESULT OF LOW LEVEL FACT FINDING
DISCUSSIONS, IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT STOBBE'S PROPOSAL
MIGHT IN SOME WAY POSE DIFFICULTIES, LEGAL OR OTHERWISE,
WITH RESPECT TO THE EC PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION THEN AND
ONLY THEN DO WE FEEL IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO MENTION
THE SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNING MAYOR. GEORGE

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